

REMARKS

According to the communication dated December 24, 2003, the “amendment” to Claim 15 does not comply with 37 CFR §1.121. However, the applicant did not intend to amend Claim 15 in the previously submitted amendment. Rather, the phrase “phosphorylated GPCR” was inadvertently left off of Claim 15 in the previously submitted copy of the claims. The current copy of Claim 15 reflects the correct wording of the claim. Please note that Claim 15 was correctly designated as “previously presented” in the last amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 15 is now properly presented.

Also according to the communication dated December 24, 2003, the previous amendment did not resolve the sequence identifier issue raised in the last Official Action. According to the last Official Action, the specification refers to the amino acid sequence “GGGGS” numerous times without employing the required sequence identifier. Accordingly, claims reciting the “GGGGS” sequence have been amended to recite the relevant SEQ ID NO for this sequence. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment to the claims resolves the aforementioned sequence identifier issue.

As set forth in the previously submitted amendment, non-elected Claims 11, 12, 16, 17 and 19-23 have been withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected species (See pg. 2, para. 6 of the Official Action). However, each of these claims depends either directly or indirectly from either of Claim 1 or Claim 9. As set forth in the previously submitted amendment, Claims 1 and 9 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that Claims 11, 12, 16, 17 and 19-23 should also be allowed. See MPEP §809.02(c).

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed by the present amendments and response, Applicants believe that the present case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request early notice to that effect. If, however, any issues remain to be addressed in this matter which might be resolved by discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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